

Message Text

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S/ S- O: K. KURZE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 075773

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJ: PAKISTAN INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS: BEYOND THE
CONSTITUTION

FOR ASST SECY SISCO

FOLLOWING TEL SENT SECSTATE INFO KARACHI LAHORE FROM ISLAMABAD
20 APRIL REPEATED

QTE ISLAMABAD 3201

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJ: PAKISTAN INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS: BEYOND THE CONSTITUTION

REF: LAHORE 404; ISLAMABAD 2993

BEGIN SUMMARY

PARLIAMENTARY DEADLOCKS IN FRONTIER AND BALUCHISTAN
PROVINCES CONTINUE INTO THIRD MONTH. OPPOSITION COALITION
IN LATTER MAINTAINS ITS MAJORITY WHILE IN FORMER COMPETING
PRO- GOVERNMENT GROUPS UNABLE TO COME TO AGREEMENT. BHUTTO
MAY CALL SNAP ELECTIONS IN HOPE, INTER ALIA PEOPLES' PARTY CAN
IMPROVE ITS STANDING IN TWO SMALL PROVINCES. END SUMMARY
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1. NATIONAL " CONSTITUTION WEEK" FESTIVITIES CELEBRATING PASSAGE OF CONSTITUTION CONCLUDED APRIL 19. NEW CONSTITUTION MUST COME INTO EFFECT PRIOR TO AUGUST 15 ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT CAN DECIDE ON EARLIER DATE. IN INTERIM PERIOD, NUMBER OF ACTIONS CAN BE TAKEN. FOREMOST ARE SELECTION OF SENATE BY PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLIES, ELECTION OF PRESIDENT BY COMBINED SENATE AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND ELECTION OF PRIME MINISTER BY ASSEMBLY.

2. PROBLEMS IN BALUCHISTAN AND FRONTIER:
BHUTTO MAY BE RELUCTANT TO HAVE PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLIES SELECT SENATE FOR TIME BEING SINCE PEOPLES' PARTY AND ITS ALLIES HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO DATE TO FORM GOVERNMENTS IN BALUCHISTAN AND FRONTIER PROVLL BE ON NPG IN FALL WHO HAVE NOT HOSTED MEETING. NORWAY HAS TOLD IS INFORMALLY THAT THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO HOST SPRING 1974 MEETING (EVEN WITH GREECE ATTENDING), BUT THEY COULD NOT HOST FALL MEETING DUE TO GENERAL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN LATE SEPTEMBER. GREECES IS INTERESTED IN HOSTING MEETING, BUT WILL NOT MAKE FORMAL INVATION UNLESS THEY ARE ASSURED THERE WOULD BE NO OBJECTIONS. NORWEGIAN DEL AT PRESENT CANNOT ASSURE GREEKS THAT THERE WOULD BE NO OBJECTION TO NORWEGIAN DEF MIN GOING TO GREECE. IN ADDITION, GREEKS QUESTION HOSTING FIRST MEETING AFTER THEY ROTATE BACK ONTO NPG.

2. REMAINING NPG MEMBERS AT FALL MEETING ARE CANADA, FRG, NETHERLANDS, UK AND US. FRG, UK AND US ARE ALL PERMANENT MEMBERS WHO HAVE HOSTED TWO MINISTERIAL MEETINGS; HOWEVER, BOTH FRG AND UK HOSTED SECOND MEETING MORE RECENTLY THAN US. NETHERLANDS DEL EARLIER INDICATED TO IS THAT THEY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HOSTING FALL MEETING, BUT HAVE NOW REVERSED THEIR POSITION, SINCE THERE IS NO PERMANENT DUTCH GOVT. CANADA HASNOT UNTIL TODAY BEEN ASKED ABOUT HOSTING MEETING. CANADIAN DEL OFF SAID NEITHER HE NOR OTTAWA HAD RAISED SUBJECT SINCE HIS ARRIVAL LAST SUMMER.

3. COMMENT: WE RECOMMEND TAKING POSITION TAKEN BY MISSION OFFICER NOTED IN SUMMARY, AT LEAST INITIALLY, TO FORCE OTHER DELS TO RECONSIDER THEIR POSITIONS. THERE IS HOWEVER, THE POSSIBILITY THAT NO COUNTRY WILL MAKE OFFER TO HOST FALL MEETING BEFORE THE ANKARA MINISTERIAL MEETING NEXT MONTH. THERE IS A RISK THAT WITHOUT FIRM OFFER AT ANKARA MEETING, NPG MINISTERS WILL CHOOSE TO MEET AT NATO HQS IN BRUSSLES. WE BELIEVE THAT HOLDING AN NPG MINISTERIAL AT NATO HQS WOULD REDUCE THE IMPORTANCE AND UNIQUE CHARACTER OF THE NPG AND WOULD REOPEN MEMBERSHIP QUESTION. WE, THEREFORE, BELIEVE THAT THE US SHOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER OFFERING TOHOST FALL 1973

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MINISTERIAL JOINT DISCUSSION, CONFINING POINTS
TO JURIDICAL ASPECTS OF CASE.

4. IN EVENT DG NEVERTHELESS REFERS MATTER TO BOARD,
DELEGATION TO 92 ND EXBD SHOULD VOTE AGAINST ANY RESOLUTION
BARRING ISRAEL FROM SUBJECT MEETING AND VOTE FOR ANY
RESOLUTION THAT WOULD CHANGE MEETING SITE IF INDONESIAN
POSITION MAINTAINED. U. S. INTERVENTION SHOULD BE BRIEF
AND CONFINED STRICTLY TO POINT THAT REGULATIONS ARE CLEAR
AND MUST BE ADHERED TO.

5. KEEP DEPARTMENT CLOSELY INFORMED AS SITUATION DEVELOPS.
PORTER

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